Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A garment hanger having a frame forming a hook and a pair of depending garment engaging arms and a transverse strut extending between the garment engaging arms, the ~~improvement~~ garment hanger comprising:

(a) a continuously convex length in each of the garment engaging arms, the convex length substantially extending from the hook to the strut; and

(b) a polymeric sheath extending along at least one of the garment engaging arms, the polymeric sheath circumscribing the garment engaging arm along a length of the garment engaging arm.

2. (Original) The garment hanger of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheath extends along both garment engaging arms.

3. (Cancelled) The garment hanger of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheath encapsulates a length of the one of the garment engaging arms.

4. (Original) The garment hanger of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheath is concentric with the one of the garment engaging arms.

5. (Original) The garment hanger of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheath is eccentric with the one of the garment engaging arms.

6. (Original) The garment hanger of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheath has a cellular structure.

7. (Original) The garment hanger of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheath is an overmolding.

8. (Original) The garment hanger of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheath is a separable sleeve.

9. (Original) The garment hanger of Claim 8, wherein the separable sleeve includes a longitudinally extending slit for receiving a cross section of the garment engaging arm.

10. (Original) The garment hanger of Claim 1, further comprising a second polymeric sleeve extending along the hook.

11. (Currently amended) The garment hanger of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheath is a sleeve having a circular cross section with an outer diameter at least twice a diameter of the garment engaging arm.

12. (Currently amended) A method of forming a garment hanger, comprising:

(a) forming a frame having a hook, a pair of depending garment engaging arms and a transverse strut extending between the garment engaging arms, the garment engaging arms having a continuously convex length substantially extending from the hook to the strut; and

(b) forming a polymeric encapsulation on the garment engaging arms~~a metal hanger along a length of the hanger, the metal hanger having a hook and a pair of garment engaging arms~~.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein forming the polymeric encapsulation ~~sheath~~ includes overmolding a polymeric material about the portion of the metal hanger.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein forming the polymeric encapsulation ~~sheath~~ includes disposing a preformed polymeric sleeve over the portion of the metal hanger.

15. (Currently amended) An accessory for a garment hanger having a hook and a pair of garment engaging arms, the garment engaging arms having a longitudinal axis, the accessory comprising:

(a) an overchannel having a generally U-shape cross section defined by a closed end and a pair of legs, and a channel longitudinal axis, the closed end including an aperture sized to pass the hook therethrough, the channel longitudinal axis being different than the longitudinal axis of the garment engaging arm, the overchannel extending beyond a terminal end of the garment engaging arm by approximately 40% of a length of the garment engaging arm.

16. (Original) The accessory of Claim 15, wherein the overchannel is an integral one piece body.

17. (Original) The accessory of Claim 15, wherein the overchannel includes a first layer defining the first leg and a second layer defining the second leg, the first layer and the second layer bonded together to form the closed end.

18. (Original) The accessory of Claim 15, wherein an inner surface of at least one of the legs includes a capture tab, sized to retain a section of the garment engaging arm intermediate the capture tab and the closed end.

19. (Original) The accessory of Claim 15, wherein the overchannel is an integral one piece construction and is sized to extend beyond a terminal end of each garment engaging arm.

20. (Original) The accessory of Claim 15, wherein the legs include a plurality of capture tabs sized to retain the garment engaging arm relative to the overchannel.

21. (Original) The accessory of Claim 20, wherein the plurality of capture tabs engages a first garment engaging arm having a first longitudinal axis and a second garment engaging arm having a different second longitudinal axis.

22. (Withdrawn) A garment hanger, comprising:

(a) a frame having a hook, a pair of garment engaging arms, and a transverse strut, the garment engaging arms defining a continuously convex profile between the hook and the transverse strut, the strut being vertically spaced from the hook by a distance greater than the garment engaging arms.

23. (Withdrawn) The garment hanger of Claim 22, wherein the convex profile has a constant radius of curvature.

24. (Withdrawn) The garment hanger of Claim 22, wherein the convex profile has a varying radius of curvature.

25. (Withdrawn) The garment hanger of Claim 22, wherein the transverse strut has a length of at least 21 inches.

26. (Withdrawn) A garment hanger, comprising:

(a) a frame having a hook, a pair of garment engaging arms, and a transverse strut, the garment engaging arms defining a continuously convex profile between the hook and the transverse strut, the garment engaging arms being entirely disposed intermediate the strut and the hook.